

# Indiana Democratic Party

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OFFICE OF GENERAL  
COUNSEL

2006 OCT 17 A 10:00

October 3, 2006

Office of General Counsel  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20463

MUR # 5845

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Chair of the Indiana Democratic Party, I am hereby submitting this sworn and notarized statement as an official request that the Federal Election Commission investigate possible collaboration between a so-called "527" non-profit group and an official federal political campaign.

Based on Internal Revenue Service reports and complaints we have received from several anonymous sources on the campaign trail, I have reason to believe that Bloomington, Ind.-based "Citizens for Truth" has violated FEC rules prohibiting "527" groups from collaborating or coordinating their efforts with an official Congressional campaign.

The campaign in question is the race between Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel and Democratic challenger and former U.S. Rep. Baron Hill in Indiana's Ninth District.

More than half of the donors to "Citizens for Truth" also are donors to the "Friends of Mike Sodrel" campaign fund, and there is reason to believe there has been coordination between the two groups.

In 2004, "Citizens for Truth" was responsible for purchasing anti-Hill billboards and other paid media in the Ninth District.

It is further interesting to note that once we issued a press release about this issue last week, "Citizens for Truth" modified its website to exclude taking credit for several anti-Hill efforts in 2004.

Included with this letter you will find the recent press release from the Indiana Democratic Party with information about our complaints and a copy of the two versions of the "Citizens for Truth" website.

We have reason to believe that if you were to request e-mail and cell and home phone records from the founder of "Citizens for Truth" or any of the group's volunteers, you will find evidence of coordination with members of the Sodrel campaign.

If you need more information about the nature of this complaint, please contact me at 317-231-7100.

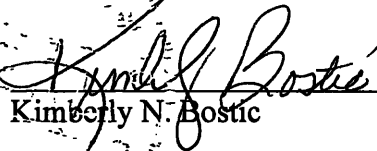
Cordially,



Daniel J. Parker  
Chair  
Indiana Democratic Party

Encls.

Signed and sworn to before me on October 3, 2006:



Kimberly N. Bostic

My commission expires Sept 25, 2013

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# Citizens for Truth

www.citizensfortruth.com

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## about us

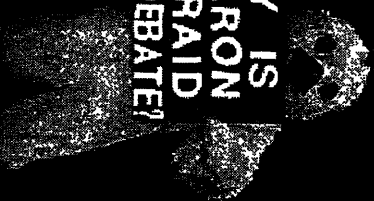
**Citizens for Truth (CFT)** is committed to promoting Hoosier family values and educating Hoosiers on issues relating to those values

CFT is a "527" political group dedicated to informing the people of Indiana on the voting records, issue positions, actions and public statements of elected officials and candidates for public office

CFT ran radio advertisements, erected billboards, and posted [www.WhereIsBaron.com](http://www.WhereIsBaron.com) during the 2004 election cycle to educate people about Baion Hill's positions on key issues of concern to Hoosiers

And, we are back to do it again!

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AFRAID  
TO DEBATE?





# Citizens for Truth

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## about us

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Email: [info@citizensfortruth.com](mailto:info@citizensfortruth.com)  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 28, 2006

**IRS, FEC should investigate Bloomington non-profit  
*Group aiming at Hill may be in violation of federal law***

INDIANAPOLIS – Indiana Democrats today called on the Internal Revenue Service and the Federal Election Commission to investigate a non-profit group dedicated to attacking Ninth District Congressional candidate and former U.S. Rep. Baron Hill.

An analysis of financial reports from 2004 shows that more than half of those who donated to Bloomington-based "Citizens for Truth" also donated to the official campaign fund of U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel, whom Hill is challenging this year.

Federal law prohibits coordination between an official federal political campaign and a so-called "527" non-profit group. Furthermore, IRS rules explicitly prohibit non-profit groups from endorsing political candidates or participating in political campaigns.

"Someone needs to make sure this organization isn't coordinating attacks against Baron Hill," said Indiana Democratic Party Chair Dan Parker. "If that is what's happening, Mike Sodrel needs to be the first person to do something about it."

Sodrel told a Bloomington columnist earlier this month that the law prohibits him from having contact with "527" groups such as "Citizens for Truth." He also said he would oppose any negative personal campaigning by such groups.

The analysis of the "Citizens for Truth" 2004 IRS report shows that \$9,500 of its \$16,582.95 in contributions – 54.3 percent – came from sources who also contributed to "Friends of Mike Sodrel." Six of the 11 donors who gave to "Citizens for Truth" also donated to "Friends of Mike Sodrel."

"Citizens for Truth," which is run by Bloomington GOP activist Herman "Bud" Bernitt, has purchased anti-Hill radio advertising and billboards and has launched an anti-Hill website. Bernitt has been involved in other local political scandals, including setting up a Democratic Monroe County Council member for a DUI arrest.

"This is a man who will stoop to new lows to make sure his side wins," Parker said. "If he's not following the law, his group needs to be shut down. We have campaign rules for a reason."

For more information: Jennifer Wagner, 317-231-7125 or 317-752-6497

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*Paid for and authorized by the Indiana Democratic Party, Daniel J. Parker, Chair.*

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